

## Plant Biosecurity Policy



### **Understanding the threat from notifiable plant pests and diseases**

It is recognised within the horticultural industry that the movement of plants is a source and risk of also moving unwanted pests and diseases with them. As a business we trade within and outside the UK so can potentially import unwanted pests and diseases (P & D). If we are unaware of these threats we can then send them anywhere in the UK. It is therefore critical that we manage our biosecurity risks responsibly.

### **Site and Operations Pest Risk Analysis and Plant Biosecurity**

#### Importing:

We import and buy in plants from the EU. These have the highest risk of P & D. Every import must be accompanied by a phytosanitary health certificate (PHC) issued by the exporter. We don't unload any consignment from the delivery vehicle unless the PHC accompanies the delivery. We store the PHC for 3 years or more with the consignment paperwork to provide long-term traceability. Imported plants are then kept in isolation until signed off by a DEFRA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector (PHSI).

#### Plant Health onsite:

All staff are advised and provided with steriliser for knives and secateurs, to reduce and minimise the spread of infection and disease. We also use where possible biological controls and folia feed to help control P & D. We display fact sheets and advise staff of notifiable P & D, to help ensure that if one is present on the nursery our staff should know what it is and inform a responsible person. If a notifiable pest or disease is found, our local PHSI will be informed.

Email: [planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk](mailto:planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk)

Call Tel. 03000 200 301

#### Dispatching:

Currently as a business we do not ship outside of GB. All plants are checked, and quality controlled before dispatch to our customers. If an issue is found by the dispatch team, they must inform the nursery manager so that the issue can be dealt with. If there are any issues with the quality of plants, we would inform the customer of the issue and not supply to ensure pests and diseases are not spread.

If we are to export outside the UK, the correct process of inspection and PHC would be followed before dispatch.

### **Communicating this policy**

We display this policy within the office and staffrooms. We also provide a copy to staff when they first start work at A.E. Roberts in their welcome pack. This policy is also available on our website for customers and suppliers to see.

We also communicate with staff and inform them of any changes or if any new notifiable P & D may be encountered.

Name: Joshua White

Position: Nursery Manager

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. White'.

Date: 15/02/2024